

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE: THE ALZHEIMER'S CLINICAL RESEARCH  
AND TRAINING PROGRAM -- HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY (Extensions of Remarks  
- June 09, 2000)

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HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY  
OF MASSACHUSETTS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my appreciation for the language contained in the Committee Report accompanying this bill which addresses Alzheimer's Disease.

Furthermore, I would like to commend Chairman PORTER and Ranking Member OBEY for considering my April 12th testimony before the Subcommittee where I spoke on behalf of the 126 members of the Bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease along with my co-chair Rep. CHRIS SMITH (R-NJ). Together we encouraged the Subcommittee to urge the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to increase its research for Alzheimer's by \$100 million and to implement and fully fund a new program, originally adopted into the House Budget Resolution, the Alzheimer's Clinical Research and Training Awards Program.

This worthy program will train physician-scientists to focus on clinical research and to [Page: E931] GPO's PDF translate the excellent basic research in Alzheimer's Disease to the clinic . Ultimately this program provides an opportunity for the National Institute on Aging (NIA) to ``enhance efforts to train , and educate health care professionals to improve diagnosis, treatment and prevention of Alzheimer's Disease" as the House Report language accompanying this bill urges.

I would note that the Senate Committee report accompanying the Labor-HHS Education Appropriations bill provides additional clarification of the intent of Congress with respect to how the NIA should improve the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of Alzheimer's Disease. The Senate Committee Report states the following with respect to the specific steps we expect to be taken to educate and train physician/scientists:

``The Committee believes that an important step in fighting Alzheimer's Disease is the encouragement of clinical research and training , which will complement the many excellent research efforts currently funded through the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Institute on Aging (NIA), and in the private sector. The creation of Alzheimer's Clinical Research and training Awards program to train physicians to

recognize and treat Alzheimer's Disease, and to dedicate their careers to improving care for Alzheimer's patients by bridging the gap that exists between basic and clinical research is critical. The awards program will foster physician dedication to a career in research , diagnosis, and treatment of Alzheimer's Disease by awarding junior and midlevel physicians who have demonstrated the potential for a lifelong commitment to researching and treating Alzheimer's , with a 1 year stipend to train as an Alzheimer's physician/scientist. The awards program will be administered through the NIA, and should provide support for institutions focused primarily on Alzheimer's research but linked to a clinical treatment facility. The awards program will complement the Alzheimer's Disease Research Centers (currently funded through NIA) or similar institutions that are State or privately funded. The awards program will encourage institutions implementing the program to specialize in training physician/scientists, ultimately becoming physician training centers."

Alzheimer's disease is on track to become the epidemic of the 21st Century, currently 4 million Americans are afflicted and by 2050 it is estimated that this number will increase to 14 million. With these astonishing statistics we must act today to head off the health care crisis of tomorrow. The Alzheimer's Clinical Research and Training Awards envisioned by both the House and Senate bills represent an important step in meeting the challenge.